Magistrate's Court at Minachil, that for some time after that representation there was a First Class Magistrate's Court there, that subsequently a Second Class Magistrate alone was being sent, and that the people therefore experienced great difficulty in the conduct of their First class cases by having to go to Kanjirapalli, Kottayam or Perumpavur. He, therefore, prayed that the Magistrate sent to Minachil might be one with First Class powers. He further observed that the volume of crime in the taluk being large, the hands of the Police should be strengthened by the appointment of a separate Circle Inspector for the taluk. The Member also repeated the old request for making Ramapuram a charging station.

Dewan's reply.—The question of investing the Tahsildar of Minachil with First Class powers will be considered. The Peishkar and the High Court say that a First Class Magistrate is not necessary there. The Commissioner of Police says that a Circle Inspector is unnecessary at Minachil; there are only 17 Circle Inspectors for 34 taluks. A second charging station has been arranged to be opened. The question of making Ramapuram a charging station will be considered.

44. Desirability of establishing a Magistrate's Court at Kuttattukulam.

Mr. Avira Mathai (Member, Muvattupuzha Taluk) said that he had represented the subject in person to the Dewan during his last tour and that he had kindly promised to give a Bench Magistrate for the present. The Member submitted that Kuttattukulam was 12 miles from Muvattupuzha and 16 miles from Ettumanur and that it was the centre of the taluk with an important market and a Police Station, an English School, and a Sub-registry office. The absence of a Magistrate's court was being keenly felt by the people who suffered petty inconveniences and annoyances. The distance from Piravam to Muvattupuzha was 22 miles. He understood that some Magisterial reforms were under contemplation and requested that their prayer might be considered in that connection.

Dewan's reply.—The matter will be examined.

45. Need for further provisions in the Municipal Regulation to facilitate Municipal administration.

Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai B. A. & B. L. (Member, Municipal Council, Kottayam) prefaced his observations by admitting that the Municipal Regulation, V of 1095, being quite new, it was premature to offer effective criticism with regard to its operation. The comments which he offered were therefore meant only to clear the ground and to have certain patent *lacunae* filled up before the Regulation itself was set to regular working. Proceeding, the Member invited attention to Sections 53 and 58, the former relating to the vesting of properties, and the latter defining the obligations of a Municipality. It was doubtful whether public wells vested in Municipalities. Public streets were vested in Municipalities under Section 53. But with reference to the definitions of "public street" and "street" in the Regulation, and of "public" in the General Clauses Regulation, he pointed out that the essence of a public road or street was the right of way, or the right to pass along, possessed by the public. As, according to the Land Conservancy Regulation and the ruling in 5 T. L. R. page 227, the public possessed no such right over the roads in general in the State, they were but licensees in the matter of using the public roads. The Member then referred to the prohibitory notice-boards in the vicinity of temples, &c., placing checks on the freedom of passage of the public. Whatever different sections of the public might say about those boards, he (the Member) thought that the Government were within their rights in putting them up. Since there was no public street in the State as defined in the Regulation, no such thing vested in any Municipality under Section 53, and no Municipality, he argued, was bound to maintain, light or clean any road under Section 58 as the law stood at present. Those difficulties had to be cleared up.

The Member then drew attention to Section 47 of the Regulation. The Municipalities had to pay for the land assumed under that Section. But the Municipal Councils could not appear and adduce evidence before a Land Acquisition Officer,

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as in British India. The omission had to be remedied and he urged for a right of reference to the District Court at the instance of a Municipality dissatisfied with any award.

Section 65 was next commented upon. That Section enabled a Municipal Council to call for information required for deciding the liability of an individual to taxation. To prepare the valuation list information as to the annual value of buildings was in his opinion indispensable. But the existing Regulation afforded no help in that direction. He referred to Section 99 of the Bengal Municipal Act and Section 109 of the recent Madras City Municipal Act, both of which contained provisions enabling the local bodies concerned to obtain the information and pleaded for the insertion of similar provisions in the Municipal Regulation of this State. And lastly, he adverted to the need for the control of the sale of milk within municipal areas. Bad milk, he said, paved the way for all manner of diseases, and he prayed for the necessary provision being made in Regulation V of 1095 on the lines of Section 299 of the Madras City Municipal Act.

Dewan's reply.—Government are highly indebted to Mr. Narayana Pillai for his very valuable suggestions. Some of the defects pointed out in the Municipal Regulation are very important.

IV. PRODUCTION.—AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES.

(1) Agriculture.

46. The need for remedying certain grievances of the ryots of Nanjanad.

Mr. V. Tiruchittambalam Pillai (Member, Tovala Taluk) stated that the people of Nanjanad lived mostly by agriculture and that, in spite of the strenuous attempts made by the Government and the Department of Agriculture, the people were still following their traditional methods of agriculture and were therefore unable to make adequate profits. The people were therefore seeking employment under Government to the great detriment of agriculture. In view to give an incentive to agriculture and render it profitable, the Member suggested that the scientific methods adopted by the department might be popularised by making agriculture a compulsory subject of study in classes III to VII in the vernacular schools and up to Form III in English schools, a small agricultural farm being attached to each school so as to enable the students to practise the lessons taught to them. The Member said that the additional expenditure involved in the proposal would be more than compensated by the good resulting to the people at large. He also suggested that the establishment of agricultural farms on scientific lines in all the important villages of the taluk would contribute towards the popularisation of scientific methods.

The Member then referred to the need for more grazing grounds in Nanjanad. Agriculture had received a great stimulus by the construction of the Kodayar dam. Since then ryots had been importing agricultural live stock in large numbers and waste lands formerly used for grazing had been converted into wet lands, so much so that ryots keenly felt the want of convenient grazing grounds in the vicinity. The Member, therfore, suggested that grass required for grazing purposes be cultivated in the available waste lands not fit for other crops.

The Member went on to differentiate the value of manures derived from the leaves of trees growing on the plains such as *poovarsu, vagai, vembu, poongu*, &c., and that derived from the leaves of jungle trees, and said that the former was more useful for manurial purposes than the latter. Foreign manures were being imported in large quantities both by the department and the public resulting in great monetary drain. In view to remedy that drawback, the Member suggested that hill slopes and valleys unfit for cultivation might be denuded of all the junglewood thereon and planted up with trees like *poovarasu* and other leaf manure trees growing in the plains. He also suggested the advisability of appointing a committee consisting of the Division Peishkar, the Director of Agriculture and the Conservator of Forests for concerting measures to carry out the above suggestions. He proceeded to state that, while the ryots experienced great difficulty in the matter of finding food for cattle and were obliged to resort to outside markets for manure, it was not desirable to permit export of materials useful for the above

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